

Special Open Door Forum

Section 646 of the Medicare Modernization Act: Medicare Health Care Quality Demonstration

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

2:00 – 4:00 PM EASTERN TIME

Section 646 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) mandates a demonstration program to encourage the delivery of improved quality of patient care through increased efficiency. Factors to be studied include incentives to improve health care safety, quality, and efficiency; use of best practice guidelines; examination of variations in utilization and outcomes measurement and research; shared decision making between providers and patients; and culturally and ethnically sensitive health care delivery.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) intends to use this demonstration to identify, develop, test, and disseminate major, multi-faceted improvements to the entire health care system. Also, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) may use this program as a laboratory for the study of quality improvement strategies.

Physician groups, integrated delivery systems, and regional health care consortia are eligible to apply for this demonstration. These demonstration projects may involve the use of alternative payment systems for items and services provided to beneficiaries, and they may involve modifications to the traditional Medicare benefit package. The legislative mandate also includes a budget neutrality requirement over the 5-year duration of the program.

CMS is working towards finalizing the demonstration design, and plans to release a solicitation for applications within the next few months. Because CMS is very interested in receiving public comment on the proposed design, we have posted a Request for Information (RFI) on the CMS website at www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/mma646/default.asp. All comments must be submitted in writing to mma646@cms.hhs.gov and must be received no later than May 6, 2005.

On April 20, 2005, CMS will hold this Special Open Door Forum conference call to provide an opportunity for public discussion about the demonstration project, and the RFI as noted above. CMS policy staff from the Office of Research, Development and Information will provide a brief overview of the RFI prior to an open question and answer comment period with an emphasis on responding to questions regarding the demonstration design. Participant questions may be submitted in advance of this forum to mma646@cms.hhs.gov and will be reviewed for possible inclusion during the discussion.

We look forward to your participation.

Open Door Participation Instructions:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID # 5243929.

Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired.

For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here

<http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID # 5243929.

The recording expires after 4 business days.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (Listserv registration) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor.